

Minutes

North Coast Marine Manufacturing Alliance Meeting

August 12, 2015

1:30 to 3:00 PM

NWTC Green Bay Campus – BA101 Classroom

Type of Meeting:	Steering Committee
Note Taker:	Debbie Thompson
Attendees:	Bill Behme -Fincantieri (Bay Shipbuilding), Jerry Clusen -Navy League, Josh Delforge -Marquis Yachts, Joe Draves -NWTC, Rick Dunlap -Total Energy Systems, Lisa Francour -NWTC, Dave Geitner -NWTC, Grayson Gerndt -KCS Int'l, Heidi Mitchell -Fincantieri, Nick Pappas -J.A. Moody, Ann Franz and Debbie Thompson

AGENDA TOPICS

PARTICIPANT(S)

MEMBER & SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

- Ann attended the June NSRP Conference in New Orleans. The safety committee considered opportunities for training initiatives. Members were asked to consider possible training opportunities. The Leadership Academy offered by FVTC, LTC, and NWTC offers a variety of training and has been very successful. The Alliance could write a grant for the Navy to fund the training of this program. The training developed must be shared with all of the ship builders in the country. Ann will be sending further information to the membership.
- Bay Shipbuilding's business continues to be robust, with a fair amount of tug and barge combinations being worked on. They have been extremely busy this summer and are getting close to being full for the winter fleet. The organization continues to be in a hiring mode and are expanding their recruitment to the Gulf Coast.
- Fincantieri recently changed their branding, with the intent to get the "Fincantieri" name more publicized. Marinette is still going strong and is looking to fill 60 salaried positions of all disciplines. Members were informed Tom Buske retired.
- JA Moody is a marine distributor, providing primarily valves to the industry. They are also a national Pentair rep. Nick expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to attend the NCMMA meetings to collaborate with members. Their organization is looking to bring in additional products that can meet boat builder's needs.
- Total Energy Systems is headquartered in Green Bay. They mainly handle Kohler generators and are looking to add new products to grow the industry and help others.
- Marquis Yachts recently participated in a successful boat show in Fort Myers, Florida. They are currently in hiring mode and looking for mainly production staff. They have recently started construction of a new 50' Carver. Other products have stemmed from the VanDutch line. They are building boats on demand and anticipate more upcoming projects.
- Jerry Clusen was involved in a couple of events this summer that sparked great interest in the SeaPerch program. SUBFEST and the Navy Reserve Centennial Celebration were both held in Manitowoc. Jerry presented the SeaPerch program at both events, generating interest from kids and adults.
- The 60 Cantius boat was recently unveiled by Cruisers. This is the company's newest/biggest boat and has been well received. Production has begun for two of the boats, keeping the organization very busy.
- Both of the NWTC marine construction and engineering program enrollments are down. However, the welding technical degree program is full, with a wait list, in addition to the mechanical design and CNC programs being full. The mechanical design program gives more opportunities to its graduates, not limiting them to the marine industry. The department is working with NWTC Corporate Training & Economic Development to boost enrollments by offering courses and running a series of certificates. They are placing an emphasis on attracting people ages 25+. The courses would be credit bearing. There are a lot of courses prepared to be quickly rolled out. **Joe asked members to [email](#) to him any thoughts or comments about the offerings.**

SEAPERCH COMPETITION

There will be another local SeaPerch competition in 2016, due to the success of this year's event.

NEXT STEPS

- Confirm the 2016 local competition date and location by the next meeting (September 9).
- Provide documentation and materials for the next meeting.
- Get the video from Ron Tupper to utilize with the promotional materials by the end of September.

- Email the promotional packages to schools on October 1. Indicate registration is on a first come, first serve basis.
- Have December 1 be the deadline for registrations. Each school can be given two kits. Additional kits can be purchased at \$200 each.
- Determine the number of teams. The NCMMA can easily handle 12 teams. They can possibly accommodate up to 18 teams, nine schools with two teams each.
- Work on sponsorships.
- Participate in a statewide SeaPerch competition.
- Offer a scholarship to a winning local team that advances to nationals.

Attendees expressed their appreciation to Dave Geitner and his NWTC students for their professionalism in the manufacture of the obstacle course and judging of the 2015 local competition.

NCMMA COLLEGE OUTREACH

Last spring, a couple of student tours with Bay Port High School and NWTC's weld club were held at member boat builder organizations. The tours are educational and get people in the region excited about the industry's bright future. Attendees agreed to continue to sponsor busing for these events.

A recruitment road trip to the College of DuPage in Illinois is being planned. The college is willing to facilitate time for NCMMA members to meet with their students. Members are encouraged to contact Ann if they are interested in participating.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER VENDOR EXPO

The event is Monday, November 16 on the NWTC Green Bay campus. Each marine builder is asked to provide representation from their organization at the Expo. In September, Ann will be sending boat builder information to the associate members. Boat builders will be updated in October. Meetings will be 20 minutes in length. Attendees are open to having a luncheon speaker.

A best in class vendor list was recently developed by member boat builders. By the end of next week, Ann will send a letter to the boat builders to update the best in class list. Organizations on the list can be invited to the Expo.

FAST FORWARD GRANT (FFG)

Members were asked to consider possible training opportunities for incumbent workers and job seekers. For this round of the FFG, a pay raise is not required for employees who complete the training; however, any training developed must be shared with other organizations.

PLAN NEXT STEPS AND MEETING

The next NCMMA Steering Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 9, 2015 from 1:30 – 3 p.m. in the Business Assistance Center on the Green Bay campus. Agenda items include; Member Updates, SeaPerch, Tall Ship Festival, Website Review, FFG, Associate Member Vendor Expo, and College Recruitment Update.

Members will review the website, in addition to the NCMMA objectives. Suggestions for the website include the following; A) STEM Initiatives B) SeaPerch C) Logo Clothing Offerings.

The Tall Ship Festival will be held next summer. Ann will invite Cindy Rasmussen of PMI to the September meeting to discuss the event. Members expressed the desire to participate if a better location for the boat builders can be secured.

There will not be a November meeting due to the Associate Member Expo.